



ASSUMPTION of the Blessed Virgin Mary

A welcoming community sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ through faith, prayer and the sacraments.



April 19, 2020

We celebrate EUCHARIST

Saturdays: 5:30 PM
Sundays: 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 AM
Weekdays: 9:00 AM

We celebrate PENANCE

Saturdays: 4:00 – 5:00 PM and by appointment.

We celebrate BAPTISM

Usually the first and third Sundays each month. Meeting with Deacon Mike and attendance at class is required. Please contact the rectory during regular office hours to register.

We celebrate MARRIAGE

Make arrangements with the priest at least six months prior to the wedding. All are required by our Bishop to attend the Pre-Cana Conferences as part of the preparation.

Eucharistic Adoration

First Friday of the month: 1:00-2:00 PM - Nocturnal
Third Friday of the month: 7:30-8:30 PM - ADOREMUS

Miraculous Medal Novena

Wednesdays following the 9:00 AM Mass.

Communion for the Sick or Shut-ins

Contact the rectory during regular office hours.

Parish Social Ministry (Outreach)

Open Tuesday and Friday, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Food pantry available. Will also try to help with referrals and advocacy. Call Outreach Office for appointment, 631-585-8760 x101.

RCIA

Provides for those who have never been baptized or those who have been baptized but have not celebrated Eucharist and/or Confirmation to experience the joy of our Catholic community, within an adult context. Anyone 18 and over is welcome. Contact the rectory office at 631-585-8760.

Faith Formation

Works with parents to share faith with our youngest members, grades 1-8. Contact the office for details at 631-588-6408.

Youth Ministry

- High School Ministry (AYM), Wednesdays: 7:30 - 9:00 PM
- Middle School Ministry (MSM), Thursdays, 7:00 - 8:45 PM

For further information, contact Renata 631-585-8760

Music Ministry

Our parish's Music Ministry seeks to lead and support our parish family in full, conscious, and active participation in the liturgy. For further information call Rob at 516-523-1668.

20 Chestnut Street, Centereach, NY 11720 631-585-8760 www.abvmcentereach.com

Rev. Joseph Alenchery, Pastor
Rev. Chris Aridas, Retired Pastor
Deacon Michael Montelione

Rectory Office: M - F 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.
Phone: 631-585-8760; Fax: 1-866-214-3365
Faith Formation: 631-588-6408



Sunday, April 19th

8:00 a.m. — Intention of Justyna Valva & Family
 9:30 a.m. — Abelardo Angeles
 11:30 a.m. — People of the Parish

Monday, April 20th

9:00 a.m. — Sr. Joan Berninger M.M.

Tuesday, April 21st

9:00 a.m. — Aristides Cruz (Family)

Wednesday, April 22nd

9:00 a.m. — Felicidad Ignacio (family)

Thursday, April 23rd

9:00 a.m. — Maximo Ignacio (Family)

Friday, April 24th

9:00 a.m. — Alfred Sazinger (Family)

Saturday, April 25th

5:30 p.m. — Mary & Louis Sazinger (Family)

Sunday, April 19th

8:00 a.m. — Maria & Ignacio DeSousa (Family)
 9:30 a.m. — Peter & Marjorie Gochan (Family)
 11:30 a.m. — People of the Parish



Stephen Calestini
 Joanne Ruf
 Egbert Besay
 William Schroder
 Lou Pasquarelli



Time, Talent & Treasure
 Fostering Stewardship
 as a Way of Life

Parish Sacrificial Giving Summary
 (Regular Sunday Offering)

Last Week's Collection \$6,522
 (includes *Faith Direct*)

Last Year's Collection \$8,671
Thank You!

Faith Formation

The ministry of the Word is a fundamental element of evangelization through all its stages, because it involves the proclamation of Jesus Christ, the eternal Word of God

Faith Formation Office Hours

Regular Office Hours: Monday and Tuesday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. 3:00—8:00 p.m.); Wednesday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.—7:30; Thursday & Friday - Closed; Saturday - 9:00 a.m. to 11; Sunday - 10:30 a.m. to Noon.

Middle School Ministry (MSM)

Middle School Ministry is on Thursday nights from 7:00 PM to 8:45 PM. All Middle Schoolers (6th thru 8th) are welcome.



Assumption Youth Ministry (AYM)

Assumption Youth Ministry welcomes all high Schoolers (9th thru 12th) on Wednesday nights from 7:30-9:00 PM. We gather in the Parish Center Hall. Bring your friends with you.



Catholic Daughters of the America's (Court St. Gerard)

First Thursday of the month: Sept - June at 7:30 PM in the Parish Library. Contact Maria Calestini at flo815@optonline.net.

Catholic War Veterans

Second Saturday of the month: Sept - June at 10 AM in the Parish Library. Contact Richard Gallagher at popparich38@aol.com.

Holy Name Society

Usually the second Monday of the month: Sept - May at 7:30 PM in the parish center. Contact Sal Stingo at rtbhuntington@yahoo.com or Anita Wolf at hwolf96@aol.com.

Rosary Altar Society

A service-based women's organization that cares for the Church and promotes the spiritual life of its members. Contact the rectory for meeting dates and times.

Scouting (Cub Scout, Boy Scouts)

Contact Chantal Mears at Chantalmears@yahoo.com or 631-438-2468 or visit www.bsa356.com for more details..

Good News Reflection**How to continue the Easter experience**

How well do we live the Easter experience in our daily lives? We are an Easter people, because we know and celebrate that Jesus has risen from the dead. And yet, we're not always shouting, "Hallelujah!" We don't always feel like celebrating -- not in our worship nor outside the church where our joy could influence people toward faith in Jesus.



It's hard to feel like the Good Friday experience of carrying our crosses has really ended.

This Sunday's second reading describes what the Easter experience is supposed to feel like: We should rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy. But how does that happen?

The attitude of joy does not come from reaching the end of our cross-like burdens. Rather, it comes from knowing that Christ's death and resurrection have overcome our crosses, and by uniting ourselves to his life, we are victorious even before we see the battle end.

Furthermore, it comes from knowing that we have the ultimate victory -- eternal life in God's abundant love -- and we know that this gift is "imperishable, undefiled, and unfading" and that it's being safeguarded by

the power of God because, by choosing to have faith in Christ, we have accepted the gift in advance. □

This joy-from-knowing is the true definition of "hope". Hope isn't wishful thinking. Hope means celebrating what is certainly going to happen before it happens.

Some Catholics say that they're afraid they might lose their salvation because they don't trust themselves to stay close to Jesus always. They're afraid that something will tempt them to turn away from Jesus between now and the hour of death. If you worry about this, let me ask you: During times of suffering, do you reject God or run to him?

Even when we get angry at him, we're actually very close to him. We're angry because we believe in him and trust him and he seems to be disappointing us. This is a normal part of the Christian life: Our faith is purified by our trials.

To embrace life as an Easter people, we must learn to remember that our sufferings are temporary and that someday we will enter into eternal joy. This is what we celebrate even while carrying our crosses.

Questions for Personal Reflection:

In what ways has God apparently disappointed you? What is he doing -- or not doing -- that's upsetting you? How is this increasing your closeness to him, even if it feels like he's silent and distant?

Questions for Group Faith Sharing:

Give an example of wishful thinking: What have you wished for in prayer? What have you been begging God to do? How is this different than hoping (joy-from-knowing)? Even if your wish never comes true, what's your reason for a higher hope?

Sunday, Apr 19, 2020

SOLEMNITY OF THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER; DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Empty chairs, full hearts

On this day 25 years ago, 168 people died in the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. The footprint of the building is now ringed by trees providing a living threshold for ground made sacred by grief. A surviving wall records the names of those who lived through the tragedy, while a Field of Empty Chairs recalls the adults and children who perished. Violence created the need for this memorial. But the chairs, which become vigil lights of memory through each night, attest that a light shines in every darkness. Be that light.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31 (43).
"They devoted themselves . . . to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers."

Monday, Apr 20, 2020

EASTER WEEKDAY

Give life the last word

Today is the 21st anniversary of the Columbine school shooting. How to cope with the sorrow and outrage of that incident and so many similar ones? We begin to rebuild our society when we allow the Spirit to flow through us and see the face of God in others. "Every human being . . . , however weak, is created 'in the image and likeness of God,'" Pope Benedict XIV said in Cameroon in 2009. "Every person must live! . . . Death will never have the last word!" As we grapple with a new virus that threatens life, acknowledge the right of those around you to live, no matter their weakness or strengths, their failings or successes.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 4:23-31; John 3:1-8 (267). *"You do not know where [the wind] comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."*

Tuesday, Apr 21, 2020

MEMORIAL OF ANSELM, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Our Redeemer, in the flesh

In 1098, Saint Anselm wrote the treatise "Why the God-Man?" to champion a core Christian tenet: the Incarnation—the belief that Jesus was both fully human and fully divine. Incarnation is a big deal. Nearly every heresy tackled by the Early Church concerned errant beliefs about Jesus' true nature. No, we don't believe that Jesus was merely human (Arianism) or that he was all divine, only pretending to be human (Docetism). We believe that the second person of the Trinity took on human flesh to save us. Now more than ever, what good news that is!

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 4:32-37; John 3:7b-15 (268). *"You must be born from above."*

Wednesday, Apr 22, 2020

EASTER WEEKDAY

Give your sister some breathing space

"Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life. . . . This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her." Thus opens *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis' encyclical "On Care for Our Common Home." The current shutdown has

allowed the air to clear. Shine a light on what each of us can do to clean up the planet going forward.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 5:17-26; John 3:16-21 (269). *"The light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light."*

Thursday, Apr 23, 2020

MEMORIAL OF GEORGE, MARTYR

Face the dragon

The legend of Saint George the dragon slayer is a famous one, but it's not as rooted in historical fact as is the manner of his martyrdom. Yes, George had the courage to face a monster—but the monster was the Roman emperor Diocletian, whose persecution of Christians in the early 300s martyred not only George but well-known saints Sebastian, Agnes, Lucy, and Philomena, among countless others. George, a soldier, remained joyous even when tortured for his belief. Negative influences threaten your own joyous practice of Christian faith today—are you willing to face them, as George was?

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 5:27-33; John 3:31-36 (270). *"One who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of earthly things."*

Friday, Apr 24, 2020

MEMORIAL OF FIDELIS OF SIGMARINGEN, PRIEST, MARTYR

Clothes make the saint

Holding a law degree from Germany, Fidelis of Sigmaringen (1577-1622) was known as the "poor man's lawyer" who sometimes would give his destitute clients the clothes off his back. But he tired of the adversarial nature of the law profession, so he joined the Capuchin Friars. Ordained a priest in 1612, Fidelis was sent to Switzerland to convert Calvinist reformers. In violent reaction to his successful efforts, Fidelis was set upon and murdered. He was canonized in 1746 by Pope Benedict XIV. *Fidelis* means "faithful" in Latin. Exercise your faith today by donating clothes to the poor in memory of Fidelis.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 5:34-42; John 6:1-15 (271). *"This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world."*

Saturday, Apr 25, 2020

FEAST OF MARK, EVANGELIST

Share the mission

Mark was an early follower of Jesus but not one of the 12 apostles. Most scholars think that he was the "John who is called Mark" referenced in Acts 12:12 who joined in mission work with Paul and Barnabas. Today's first reading mentions that he had a special son-like relationship with Peter. Beyond that, little is known except that he used the gifts he had been given to write the shortest and earliest gospel a few decades after Jesus' death. His gospel became the inspiration for Matthew and Luke to write theirs. How will those who come after you take inspiration from your life and the way you shared in Jesus' mission?

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Peter 5:5b-14; Mark 16:15-20 (555). *"Go into the whole world and proclaim the Good News to all creation."*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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Catholic Ministries Appeal

I want to thank everyone who helped make last year’s 2019 Catholic Ministries Appeal a success. This year our parish goal is \$56,200. Your generosity provides us with an excellent opportunity to reach out to those in need. In particular, the CMA enables our Catholic community on Long Island to support the work of Catholic Charities, our Catholic Regional Schools, programs for ongoing formation and training of lay leaders as well as our deacons. Our seminary which trains men for the priesthood as well as various pastoral offices which provide excellent resources are also funded by the Appeal. This is but a short listing of a large number of worthwhile programs which your generous contributions support. In addition, parishes who make their goal receive a rebate from the diocese, amounting to 20% of the actual goal. 75% of our goal is pledged so far.

Please ask the Lord how you might participate. Your pledge is payable over a ten-month period of time. Remember also, one does not have to donate a large amount; joining everyone’s sacrificial gift adds up to a great resource for those in need.

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2020 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL
 PO Box 4000 • Rockville Centre, New York 11571-4000 • DRVC.org/CMA/

To provide funds I/we agree to make a gift of:

Pledge \$ _____ Initial Payment \$ _____ Balance \$ _____

Parish: **Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Centereach**

Email: _____

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Please send me information about Wills and Bequests

Thank you for your support!

A Guide to Giving
Every Gift Counts!

Pledge	10 Payments
\$150	\$15.00
\$250	\$25.00
\$500	\$50.00
\$1,000	\$100.00
Other \$ _____	

Please make checks payable to:
Catholic Ministries Appeal

APP-PC-0120

Parish Outreach Program

Our Outreach Program consists of trained volunteers who meet with anyone living within parish boundaries who is struggling financially or emotionally and needs support and direction. The Outreach office is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Appointments can be made by calling 585-8760, x101.



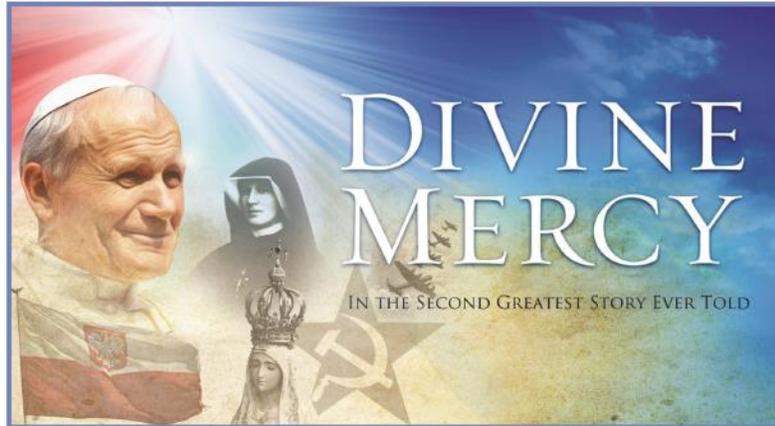
Pantry Needs: Mayonnaise, Shampoo, Conditioner, Liquid hand soap, Paper towels, Pet food, Box milk, Toothbrushes



Please prayerfully consider supporting our parish with electronic donations through *Faith Direct*. You are helping our church be more efficient, and have a steady, predictable cash flow to support the works that are important to you, throughout the year. Signing up is easy! Visit faith.direct/NY563 or download the **Faith Direct app** and search for the parish with the parish code (NY563). Thank you for your continued support of our parish family!

FORMED®

PICK OF THE WEEK



Divine Mercy

with Father Michael Gaitley

The vast panorama of God's work of mercy in the world unfolds as a story to be experienced interwoven through the transformative events of Saint Faustina, Mary at Fatima, Saint Maximilian Kolbe, and Pope Saint John Paul II.

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Divine Mercy Sunday Letter

from Most Rev. John O. Barres on April 19, 2020

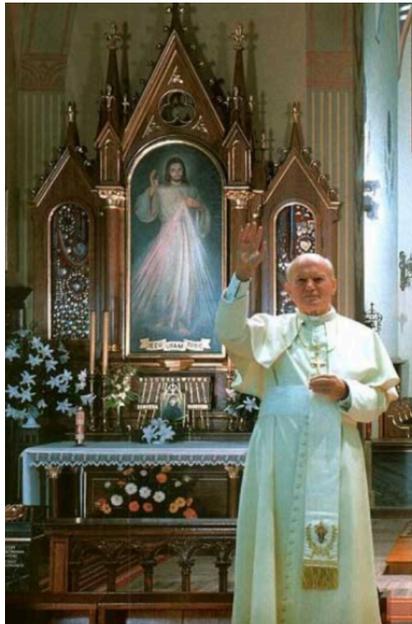
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Twenty years ago, on April 30, 2000, Pope Saint John Paul II canonized Saint Faustina Kowalska, the humble messenger of Divine Mercy. During his homily at the Mass of her canonization, while reflecting on the timeliness of the message of mercy for the twentieth century, the Polish pontiff pondered what humanity's future might be like. He answered plainly. "We are not given to know. However, it is certain that in addition to new progress there will unfortunately be no lack of painful experiences."¹

The COVID-19 pandemic, which has impacted families, parishes, and communities across Long Island and beyond, stands today as one of those painful experiences. What Pope Saint John Paul II knew vaguely to be on the horizon then is sadly ours to experience firsthand now. The devastating effects of the coronavirus – death, illness, fear, uncertainty, isolation, unemployment, financial distress – have invaded our lives. The weight of this Cross has fallen on our shoulders.

Although Pope Saint John Paul II could not have foreseen the particularities of the pain we are enduring, he knew the soothing balm that would bring us peace. He understood what would "illuminate

the way" during this time, namely, "the light of divine mercy," the supernatural gift that uplifts every generation.² What he proposed to humanity in his homily two decades ago, he still proposes from "the window of the Father's house"³ today: A radical receptivity of God's "great and unfathomable mercy."⁴



This Divine Mercy Sunday 2020, encouraged by Pope Saint John Paul II who points to merciful light in the midst of darkness, the Diocese of Rockville Centre receives anew the message of mercy entrusted to Saint Faustina. Together, on this Second Sunday of Easter, we look upon the Image of the Divine Mercy. In contemplating this serene painting of Our Lord, we discover again three aids for these days of crisis: Christ's gaze, His action, and a timely prayer.

First, beginning at the top of the Image, we encounter the gaze of mercy. There, the Lord's eyes look upon us. How good this is to hear and know

¹ Pope John Paul II, *Homily at the Mass for the Canonization of Sr. Mary Faustina Kowalska*, April 30, 2000.

² Ibid.

³ Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, *Homily at the Funeral Mass of the Roman Pontiff John Paul II*, April 8, 2005.

⁴ Faustina Kowalska, *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska: Divine Mercy in My Soul* (Stockbridge, MA: Marian Press, 2007) no. 570.

again! Jesus looks at us. He sees us as we are, laden, especially now, with the anxieties, burdens, and challenges of life. He sees us just as he saw those Gospel figures whom we met this Lent - the Samaritan woman at the well, the man born blind, and Martha and Mary, the grieving sisters of Lazarus. He loves us as He loved them. When feelings of loneliness or discouragement arise, when questions pervade our hearts or perplexities disturb our peace, the Image reminds us that we can look to the Lord and always find Him looking at us. In his eyes, we can discover “the look of love which [we] crave.”⁵ There, we can meet mercy, “the greatest attribute of God,” which “no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity.”⁶

Second, in contemplating the Image of the Divine Mercy, we note the two rays emanating from Our Lord’s breast, one red and one pale. As the Lord told Saint Faustina, “The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls.”⁷ With the Church through centuries, we see in them the sacraments, Baptism and Eucharist, and we trace these gifts of life back to their source, His pierced side (cf. Jn. 19:34). These glorious rays flow from woundedness. Their origin is in the victory of the Cross. They highlight an act of love, a total gift of self. This pale ray and red ray remind us that the Lord has acted for us. Undeserving though we were, he loved us to the end (cf. Jn. 13:1) and laid down his life for us. “God is love, and Mercy is His deed.”⁸ And we are the beneficiaries of that mercy. In these weeks, when God might seem unmoved or distant, these rays proclaim again the tender mercy shown from the Cross. They profess that God has acted and that He still acts with a mercy that sustains the world.

Third, we read the “signature” at the bottom of the Image, “Jesus, I trust in you.”⁹ On this year’s Feast

of the Divine Mercy, the familiar line is more striking. Its five words formulate perfectly a prayer in the midst of so much uncertainty. How good is the Lord! He still teaches his disciples how to pray (cf. Lk. 11:1), and He invites us to make these words the signature of our lives. This prayer is not offered blindly. It is said after having met the Lord’s gaze and having been vivified in His life-giving rays. Our bold placing of trust arises from “the ocean of mercy” He has shown to us and from

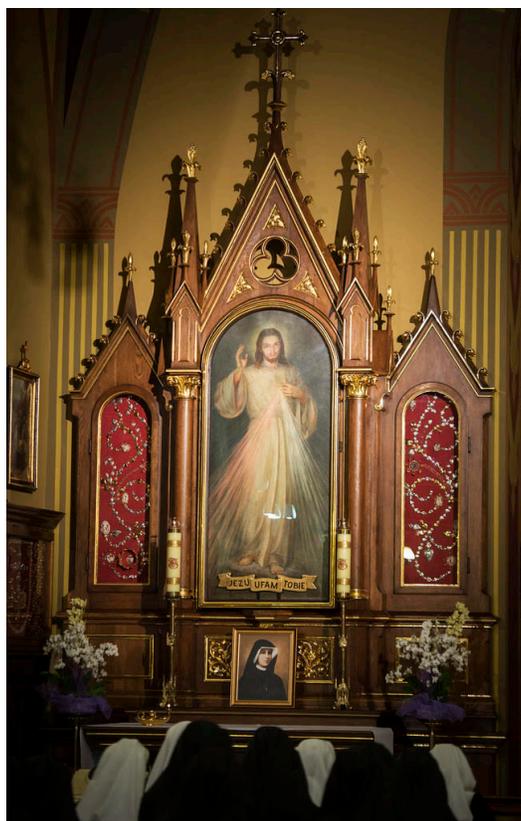
which we have received.¹⁰ Through our contemplation of the Image, we recall that God has moved towards us, that He has loved us, and that He has shown mercy to us, and therefore, we know it is reasonable to say, “*Jesus, I trust in you.*”

The Lord’s look, His love, and that brief prayer are special gifts this year. They offer consolation. They provide peace.

The Image of the Divine Mercy also serves as “a reminder of the demands of [His] mercy.”¹¹ As Pope Saint John Paul II said in his second encyclical, *Dives in Misericordia* (*Rich in Mercy*), “Jesus Christ taught that man not only receives and experiences the mercy of God,

but that he is also called ‘to practice mercy’ towards others.”¹² In short, we who have received mercy are called to give mercy.

In these weeks, the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy are being lived radiantly. Witnesses of mercy are in our midst, and our gratitude flows to the many who are sharing what they have received.



⁵ See Pope Benedict XVI, Encyclical Letter, *Deus Caritas Est*, 18.

⁶ Kowalska, *Diary*, nos. 301 and 699.

⁷ *Ibid.*, no. 299.

⁸ *Ibid.*, no. 651.

⁹ *Ibid.*, no. 47.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, no. 1319.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, no. 742.

¹² Pope John Paul II, Encyclical Letter, *Dives in Misericordia*, 14.

We call to mind the heroic virtue and tender mercy alive in our families and among our neighbors. With Pope Francis, we think, too, of those women and men who are “writing the decisive events of our time: doctors, nurses, supermarket employees, cleaners, caregivers, providers of transport, law and order forces, volunteers, priests, deacons, religious men and women and so very many others.”¹³ In this challenging time, mercy is on display.

Divine Mercy Sunday falls this year between two notable anniversaries in the life and pontificate of Pope Saint John Paul II. Both of which provide insight and wisdom for our present situation.

The first anniversary occurred on March 25th, when we marked twenty-five years since the release of Pope Saint John Paul II’s encyclical letter on the Gospel of Life (*Evangelium Vitae*). That letter shone the light of the Divine Mercy on threats against life. It articulated the good news of life, a gift from God that leads to eternal life with God, and it called every person to “respect,

protect, love and serve life.”¹⁴ The truth and beauty of the encyclical is underscored in these days when our fragility is before us and society is united in its concern for life.

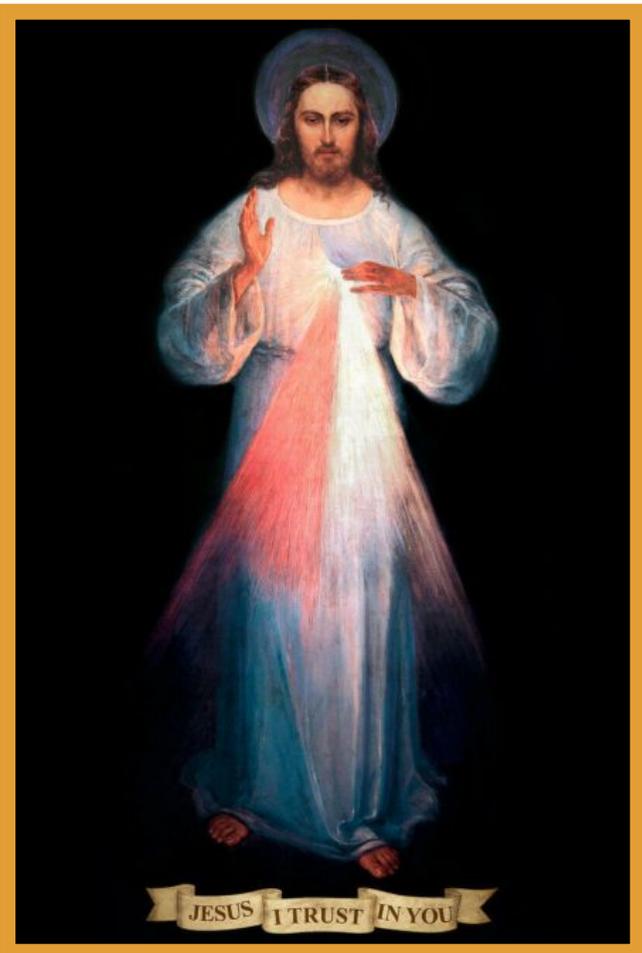
The second anniversary falls on May 18th, when we will celebrate the centenary of Pope Saint John Paul II’s birth. Spending time with this indefatigable preacher of mercy, it is good to remember that his life was not immune to crisis and turmoil. He witnessed and experienced much that could have weighed him down. However, throughout his journey, he turned to the Lord and sought to know His mercy. May he help us invite the Divine Mercy into our lives, especially in these days.

Together with Pope Saint John Paul II and Saint Faustina, let us implore Almighty God:

*I fly to Your mercy, Compassionate God, who alone are good. Although my misery is great, and my offenses are many, I trust in Your mercy, because You are the God of mercy; and, from time immemorial, it has never been heard of, nor do heaven or earth remember, that a soul trusting in Your mercy has been disappointed.*¹⁵

Let us pray for the souls of those who have died from the coronavirus and for the solace of their families. We entrust them to the Divine Mercy.

And whatever may come, let us never fail to say, *Jesus, I trust in you.*



Sincerely in Christ,

+ John O. Barres

Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

¹³ Pope Francis, *Extraordinary Moment of Prayer*, March 27, 2020.

¹⁴ Pope John Paul II, Encyclical Letter, *Evangelium Vitae*, March 25, 1995, 5.

¹⁵ Kowalska, *Diary*, no. 1730.